Editorial Comment

WE WHO LIVE HERE

There is copied elsewhere in today's issue a letter from a person in New York State, who found courteous and attentive service in Appomattox. He wrote a nice letter of thanks.

We mention this in our editorial column, because it is an example of how it pays to be courteous to our visitors.

Appomattox is one of the best-known localities in all the world. We who live here should never forget our opportunity and our responsibility.

The visitor season is now in full swing. Let us, one and all, go all-out to use what we have to the very best advantage, and make visitors glad that they stopped over in historic Appomattox.

A JOB DECLINE

The Department of Labor announced in Washington recently that March was a disappointing month, as far as employment and unemployment was concerned. The blame was placed on the weather.

The weather in March of 1960 was worse than in any other March since 1941, according to the Labor Department. As a result, it is said, employment fell.

The pattern for March is usually just the opposite.

March employment totaled 64,267,000. This was a decline from February, instead of the normal increase. The decline was 253,000.

Unemployment totaled 4,206,000 in March, and was up by 270,000. Usually there is a decline of almost 200,000 in unemployment in the month of March.

Administration officials still expect the economy to experience a pick-up in the next month or two. Indeed, automobile sales in recent weeks indicate that they are right. On the other hand, some people say that Spring business was not a good as had been expected, and fear that economic expansion during the rest of 1960 will be slow.

The vast majority of economists see good business for the rest of 1960, and well into 1961. From a purely political viewpoint, few observers can see the Republicans allowing business to slacken in an election year.

THE U. N. INFLUENCE

The influence of the United Nations today is considerable, even though that world body is a failure as far as keeping the peace is concerned. In fact, except as a debating society and a propaganda and world-opinion vehicle, the United Nations is limited to aid, study and coordinating missions.

The U. N., like the League of Nations, has failed in its first great purpose—to become an organization which could keep the peace.

It is now leaning ever more closely toward a role which involves it in the business of individual nations. This will kill the U. N. eventually, for the world group sitting in New York cannot possibly know enough about the domestic affairs inside member nations to issue directions and instructions in this field.

The only way the U. N. can maintain its limited posture is by adhering to a strict rule of non-intervention in domestic affairs. Violations of this policy will lead, one by one, to defections among member nations. Already the communists treat the U. N. as only a propaganda sounding board. They use the veto to make important accomplishments impossible.

The difficulty with most laws, human and divine, is in the interpretation.

Time is not so scarce. What is rare is the proper and intelligent use of time.

People without true responsibility are usually anxious to solve tremendous problems.

The average adult, with all wisdom rarely understands how much the average child understands.

MAY

Spring's last-born darling, clear-eyed, sweet,
Pauses a moment with twinkling feet,
And golden locks in breezy play,
Half-teasing and half-tender, to repeat,
Her song of May.

—Susan Coolidge.

May, which probably derives its name from Maia, the mother of Mercury, is the last Spring month. It is a particularly pleasant month in the United States, and most countries and signifies the end of school for millions of students.

The belief that May is an unlucky month for marriage is a hangover from the old Roman belief that the good goddess Fauna was a prophetic divinity, who revealed her knowledge only to females. And the festival of the goddess was celebrated in May. Also, the festival of the unhappy dead was celebrated in that month. The month was not supposed to be lucky for marriages because of these two festivals.

Probably then, June became a popular month for marriage, since it followed May, and since marriages postponed probably took place the following month, or in June.

The month of May contains many memorable dates in our history. First, there is the celebration of May Day, which is held in many colleges and schools, and the custom of electing May Queens. The custom probably began in England, as a survival of the Roman festivals.

The Battle of Manila Bay was fought on May 1st, 1898.

The annual observance of Mother's Day, of course, falls on the second Sunday, and dates from 1907. Miss Anna M. Jarvis, of Philadelphia, is responsible for gaining national acceptance of the day, although Miss Mary T. Sasseen, a Kentucky schoolteacher probably arranged for the first observance of the day, in 1906.

After trying for a long time, we are convinced that one of the hardest ways to do anything is to put it off.

Hoist The Villain

The trouble with this man-in-space business is that we aren't allowed to vote on who most deserves to go first. -Minneapolis Tribune.

Kennedy and Labor

Senator John F. Kennedy is counting on considerable labor support in West Virginia's Democratic Presidential primary on May 10, despite the opposition of nine union leaders there.

Neither Senator Kennedy nor his West Virginia opponent, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, of Minesota, expects to win any formal union endorsements in the Democratic primary. Officially, the big unions are neutral.

Know The Weather

By E. H. Sims

What effect do sun spots have on the earth's weather?

Some weather experts believe the number of sun spots observed on the sun controls the intensity of the heat, of our weather, on earth. Sun spots indicate hot weather, according to this weather theory, the coming of hot weather on earth, that is.

Our sun is, however, only one of many in outer space. There are many suns far more powerful than our sun, and they may exert an influence on our weather by affecting the sun. Nuclear explosions of sufficient size, if ever detonated around the sun, might appreciably affect our weather.

Likewise, nuclear explosions in the earth's atmosphere might change our pattern of weather, by counteracting the effects of the sun. Control of the weather is surely one of the goals of scientists working with super bombs, atoms, etc. Until control is achieved, the more sun spots observed, the hotter our weather.

Appomattox is a growing town.

Times-Virginian

In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Bible Material: Matthew 5:8, 27-37; 23:25-26; Luke 2:52; 9:61-62; Philippians 4:8.

Devotional Reading: Ephesians 5:21 through 6:4.

Pure In Heart

Lesson for May 1, 1960

THERE are different words in different languages for the invisible man—that is, the man nobody sees, but everybody knows he is there. Each of us is an invisible man or woman. It isn't that we walk around with this person under our skins. We are this person. We can call it the "real you" or the "inner self" or the "ego" if we like. We can call it the mind or the spirit. What the Hebrews called it was the "heart." This did not mean emotions, it meant thought, attitudes, the whole inner, unseen life of man, that area of his life in which he is definitely human and not just another and slightly smarter animal.

Dr. Foreman

PURE In Heart

Jesus laid great emphasis on the heart; and so does the entire Bible. If the heart is not right the man is not right. Jesus has a special word for the right kind of heart: "Pure." This does not mean what you might think at a hasty glance. It does not mean—exclusively—a mind free from wrong sex desires, a heart without lust. The word Jesus uses, which is translated "pure," is simply "clean." That is, free from everything useless, everything that beclouds and besmirches life. A heart cluttered up with worries is not a pure heart, as Jesus would see it.

Yet an empty heart is not a pure heart. One of Jesus' more gruesome stories is about a devil who had been cast out of a man's heart. Finding no rest elsewhere, the evil spirit came back to his old home, and found it "empty, swept and garnished." There was room there for himself and seven other devils worse than he was . . . so they all moved in. The empty life is not necessarily a good life.

Pure in HEART

"Purity of heart is to will one thing," it has been said. That may be exaggerated, but it points to a truth. Purity of heart is not the absence of sin, it is the presence of goodness. Purity of heart doesn't consist of not wanting what is bad, it is wanting what is good. Why is it that for every twenty people who will tell you they're all in favor of some good project, you can scarcely find one to take off his coat and help you with it? The difference is in the heart. There is a lot of difference between the good wish (which may not be worth a hill of beans) and real good will. There is a difference between saying politely, "Yes, that is a splendid idea. I approve of it," and getting out to work to make it come true.

Jesus knew the heart's importance. People are not going to do good, or to create it, or to be good, if they don't want to in the first place. Everything that is good has many enemies in this world. So—if we do not desire good with all our heart, our week-day heart as much as our Sunday-go-to-meeting heart, the enemies are going to discourage us, we shall never get going.

No Hypocrites At Home

This is the beginning of family week. Now the family is the hardest of all places to be a successful hypocrite. Jesus had no use whatever for hypocrites—they are perfect illustrations of hearts not pure. What they say they admire they don't admire; what good they do they wish they didn't have to do. They have to be dragged into the paths of righteousness, they don't choose those paths with joyful heart.

It is at home where hypocrites can be seen into, seen through. They can't hide their inner lives. The rest of the family sees into their hearts. Home is a place where hypocrisy withers. It always withers when it can be seen through. Thus a good home itself is a cure for hypocrisy. Family life at its best is a life in which every heart is open to all other hearts, where there is no place, no dark corner, for grudges to hide or for hates to begin. Blessed are the pure in heart, and blest are the homes where they are found.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Let the people think they govern and they will be governed. —William Penn.

Washington Notes

The Polaris Missile

The United States is prepared to equip Western Europe with Polaris missiles when they are ready about September, 1961. These specially designed missiles could be launched from mobile platforms on land or rivers.

An authoritative source said that this plan, now before the North Atlantic Treaty Council, was one of the reasons behind the British decision to abandon development of fixed - base long - range missiles.

Military Pay Bill

The House Armed Services Committee has approved a bill to increase retirement pay for 114,000 officers and enlisted men.

The increases would range from $6 a year for retires privates to $4,586 a year for retired chiefs of staff.

Shark Attacks Studied

The Smithsonian Institution is compiling a list of attacks by sharks on human beings all over the world.

The 1959 list is nearly ready for publication. Thereafter a list will be prepared in January of all shark attacks during the previous year.

Minimum Wage

Secretary of Commerce Frederick H. Mueller has voiced his opposition to legislation raising the Federal minimum wage to $1.25 an hour and applying it to 7,500,000 additional workers. He said he was speaking for the Eisenhower Administration.

Aid To Aged

Democratic leaders in the House of Representatives have agreed to try to add hospitalization insurance to the benefits available to the aged under the Social Security program.

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• Appomattox, in the very heart of Central Vir-
• ginia. It was on a Spring Sunday, 90 years ago,
• that a war-weary America made a "Gentleman's
• Peace" at Appomattox. Since, the very mention
• of the name: Appomattox, has come to stand for
• Peace, Honor and Progress. And, in all of the
• years since, Appomattox has been at its very
• best in Spring! The ravages and waste of win-
• ter give way to the resurge of energy and of
• growth. Plant beds, plowed fields, seeded acres,
• add to the greening pastures and growing tim-
• berlands, to give testimony that The Year Is
• On The March! We are proud to share in the
• interest all feel toward making our fine Com-
• munity Grow and Prosper. We invite you to join
• in our annual Clean-Up Effort. And, with the
• long-range betterment of our Community in mind
• we press upon you the importance of doing
• business in Appomattox! "Keep your Dollars
• where you earn them!" It is to your advantage.
• In busy Spring, you have no extra time to make
• long trips to do your shopping, or to await
• delivery. You can find what you need right
• here in Appomattox! And save time and mon-
• ey, too, while helping your Community to grow,
• to support local schools and churches, and all
• community activities. May this Glorious Spring
• of 1960 2be happy and properous for You,
• and we invite you to call upon your friends and
• neighbors listed on this page, for the many
• services we are ready and eager to render you.

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